

**PROVIDING INSTANT MESSAGING FUNCTIONALITY IN NON-  
INSTANT MESSAGING ENVIRONMENTS**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A system and method are disclosed for enabling a guest user who is not a  
5 registered user of an instant messaging system to communicate by instant messaging with  
a registered user of the system. An indication that the guest user desires to communicate  
with the registered user by instant messaging is received. Browser-executable computer  
code comprising computer instructions for providing at least limited instant messaging  
functionality to the guest user at the guest user's client computer system, without  
10 requiring the guest user to download and install client side instant messaging application  
software and without requiring the guest user to register as a user of the instant  
messaging system, is sent to the guest user's client computer system. An instant  
messaging session between the guest user and the registered user is facilitated.

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